

Institut Pasteur

Paris, le 20 août

1974

25, RUE DU DOCTEUR ROUX
(XV^e Arrond^t)

Téléphone : 566 - 58-00

Dr. Joshua LEDERBERG
Stanford University School of Medicine
Department of Genetics
Stanford University Medical Center
STANFORD
California 94305

Dear Josh,

I find your letter upon my return to Paris. All my congratulations to you and your wife for the birth of your daughter.

Thank you for your kind words about my book. I am very pleased that you did like it. Thank you also for the copy of Joe Fletcher's book. I only had the time to glance through it. I am going to read it with great interest.

Concerning your two specific questions :

1) I send you, under separate cover, a copy of the French edition of my book.

2) I do not think I am in a good position for a real appreciation of Avery's work. I became a research scientist in October 1950 when I entered Lwoff's laboratory. Before the war, I wanted to become a surgeon. Then I left France in 1940 to join De Gaulle's Army. I took part in the battle of Africa and of France when I was severely wounded. After the war I did not know very well what to do. It took me three or four years before recovering from the war and from my wounds. I decided to go in microbial research and microbial genetics in 1949. The two things which pushed me in this direction were an article on viruses which I read and a course which I took in the Sorbonne where the works of Delbrück and of Avery were mentioned. So, I was very excited by microbial and phage genetics but I was not in a position to have a serious estimation about Avery's work.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,

François

JACOB, F.